THE

MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy.

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Frank Brown

President of the State Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Maryland, and Proprietor of "Brown's Inheritance and Springfield Enlarged" farm, in Carroll county.

We present our readers in this number with the portrait of Frank Brown, Esq., who is the owner of the largest and best managed estate of its size within the limits of the State of Maryland. This princely estate of about 2500 acres of highly improved land is situated in Carroll county, Maryland, near Sykesville, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 30 miles from Baltimore by railroad and 20 by the Liberty turnpike.

The subject of this sketch was born on the 8th of August, 1846, and has served with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents in the Legislature of his State. But it is Brown, the farmer of Carroll county, and not Brown, the public man that we desire to illustrate for the information of our farming readers, that each one may draw inferences most likely to help his own method in farming.

From early life Mr. Brown has shown a deep-seated fondness for agricultural pursuits. When very young his father placed him on a fine farm, to manage it for his individual benefit, and from that time to this he has held a high position among the farmers of the State, and never relaxed his energies in any work calculated to advance agriculture. To this cause is attributed the fact of one so young having been selected as President of the State Agricultural Society, to succeed the lamented deceased Merryman, who died amidst all the agricultural honors that could well be showered on him—as President of the State Society, President of the U. S. Agricultural Society, and President of the American Agricultural Association.

As an evidence of energy, promptness and executive ability, we mention the fact that Mr. Brown delivered and sold his crop of wheat, of this year, aggregating *six thousand* bushels of Foultz wheat, in Baltimore, by the 20th of July, and thereby received 20 cents per bushel more than had he neglected to push it into the market. Let our dilatory farmers stick a pin here for future guidance. The crop was an average of 32 bushels per acre, on nearly 200 acres, exclusive of the rakings which will increase the yield considerably.

This large estate is divided into suitably sized fields, by substantial straight post and rail or plank fences, with a commodious dwelling, all necessary out-buildings, and large farm structures, such as stables, &c. The grounds are handsomely laid out, and have attached to them a well ordered vegetable garden, fruit trees of every kind, green houses, conservatories, and a span grapery, 100 feet long. Through the whole farm, for a distance of three miles, and dividing it nearly in half, runs *Piney Run*, a clear, bold stream, not only furnishing drainage for the farm lands, but gives power for sundry grain, saw and paper mills, and occasionally enriching the meadow lands by overflows. Along this beautiful stream on either side is Mr. Brown's meadow pasture where his large qnantity of stock are seen the whole year during good weather. This immense meadow is devoted to permanent pasture and not used for hay. In august of each year it is mowed by horse mowers and every weed, bush and briar, or foul grass which are left by the stock is cut close, and by this mowing and raking some 70 or 80 tons of refuse stuff is gathered to go into the feed yards and as bedding in the stables to catch the droppings and absorb the liquid voidings, thus swelling the yard manure piles greatly. In this way the voidings of the stock are scattered, and this grand meadow is made to present at all times a rich, level sward of grass, like a huge bowling green.

Of the annual products of the farm we can gather a slight estimate from an average yearly of what is chiefly produced—6000 bushels of wheat, 2500 barrels of corn, from 150 to 200 gallons of milk, daily, sent

to Baltimore; from 600 to 1200 sheep fattened and sold, besides quantities of wool. In addition there are large sales from the herd of 100 of the choicest Devons in the world—this being the judiciously kept up "Patterson Devon Herd," the first ever established in the United States, having been started in 1817 by a present from Mr. Coke, afterwards Lord Leicester, of England, to Mr. George Patterson and Mr. Caton, of 6 Devon heifers and one bull.

Stock usually on the farm—1000 to 1400 sheep, a portion for breeding lambs, and the larger portion being stock sheep, bought to be fattened tor the shambles. 100 pure bred Devons, besides other stock to keep up the dairy, and as those common cows become dry, they are fattened and turned over to the butcher. Pork is raised in sufficient quantities to supply the farm and its 25 hands and their families. There are 40 head of horses, nearly all are Percherons, among which is now, Zulu, a black stallion of fine points and weighing 2000 pounds, imported by W. T. Waters, Esq. Also several choice bred Percheron mares, and a very promising 2 year old colt, "General," a grand-son of Ficklin's "Colonel."

There is system everywhere on this farm. Every family has a cottage and garden to itself, and each allowed to keep a cow, pasturage, and hay and shelter for it, furnished by Mr. Brown. This liberality insures faithfulness and interest in and to the welfare of the employer, while it contributes much to the comfort and health of the employees and their families.

As evidence of the astuteness and practical abilities of Mr. Brown, in conducting so large a property, we mention a few facts from which many might learn useful lessons. He has no expensive barns, which are often seen to be more ornamental than useful. He has a large number of cheap, useful and convenient structures with all modern fixtures, as to water, etc., in each, with movable machinery to be transported from barn to barn, as required, or rather from stable to stable. To save the great labor of hauling hay and other food long distances, and the hauling out at great cost of time, the manure. He takes, as it were, his cattle to the feed. To do this he has erected 5 dairies or houses for his milch cows, to hold also the hay and other food, and the milk men's cottages close by, so that each year they go into fresh quarters. Every day all the cow stables are cleaned out and contents carted over the field adjacent and the cattle turned out for hours each day, winter and summer. Thus a large field is heavily top dressed every six or twelve months by the cattle alone. Mr. Brown believes in top dressing, he says it is the means of re-seeding his grass lands, beside the other advantages it possesses over other systems of manuring.

He has one stable, plain in appearance and not costly, but by a proper regard to comfort and econony and space, will accommodate nicely 50 horses. He does not believe in racks for horses, but prefers mangers on a level with and beside the grain-feed boxes. Most of the long feed is cut on the second floor where the hay is stored. It is cut by steam power placed below and when cut it passes to the floor below through shoots, where it is mixed with the ground food after being softened by water, and is then properly distributed with ease and dispatch to the different feed boxes and mangers on each side of this long passage way

Among other labor-saving contrivances he has a wagon shed 82 feet by 82 feet, in the middle of which is a large corn crib in sections, so that by the working of a large block and teakle, a wagon load of corn, driven alongside, can be cribbed in a minute or two at one operation. The wagon is driven alongside, the body is, by the use of the block and teakle, lifted up, the contents tilted into the crib and the body returned

at once to the running gear of the wagon. This saves a vast amount of labor in lofting a large quantity of corn.

A striking feature about this farm is seen in every building and fence connected therewith and around them, that are not painted, are annually whitewashed.

Mr. Brown is entitled to the credit of all the ingenious contrivances, that are everywhere seen on this farm, for convenience, saving of labor, and comfort of man and beast.

All his barns, stables, and sheds are on a level with the ground, without cellars or underground accommodations for stock—hence, they are free from all effluvia, dry and clean and well ventilated. Mr. B. believes in all stock having dry straw bedding, plenty of air, pure water, exercise in sunshine and open air atmosphere. Thus he has had no cases of pleuro pneumonia, cholera, or other epidemic among his stock.

The products are all consumed upon the farms except the wheat and milk. This plan of returning to the soil everything it produces, with also a liberal use of lime, ashes, bone, and phosphate, has made a soil naturally good, very fertile and productive. Besides carrying so much stock, the crops produced annually are astonishing—5000 bushels of wheat, 2500 barrels of corn, 600 tons of hay, etc. This is getting, per acre, 30 bushels of wheat, 10 to 12 barrels of corn, and 2 to 2½ tons of hay. Where is the farm of 2500 acres that can show such a balance sheet as this Carroll county farm?

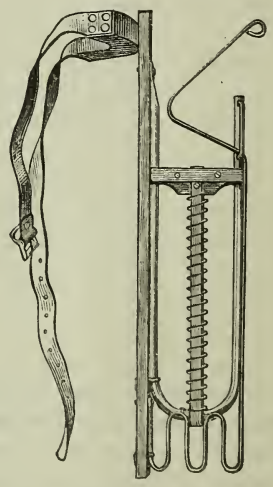
We regret our limits confine us to this terse statement in regard to this model farm and judicious farmer. There are many things we could state that would furnish food for reflection and convey useful hints to both our young and old farmers, by which time and labor could be saved, and both are too valuable in these days not to be saved as much as possible.

Farm Work for September.

Fallowing for wheat, sowing rye and getting out clover seed, if it is dry enough. housing tobacco, canning and drying fruits, cutting off corn, cleaning up fields by mowing the weeds and bushes and briars, ditching, repairing fences and cleaning out old ditches, road repairing and making new ones; these and other labors are now in order and should not be neglected.

Corn.

Such corn as has ripened, or reached the condition when the grains are glazed and beyond the roasting ear state, should now be cut off close to the ground and set in stooks, or shocks, in rows wide apart, and each shock ought to be not large, but large enough to stand up well, the buts of the stalks spread out and the tops of the shocks tied with willow wisps or straw, or corn tops. The blades will then cure green and furnish nutritious food for stock. Corn can now be topt and the blades pulled off and tied in bundles. We have seen lately a convenient little instrument for holding the blades as they are pulled until enough to form a bundle has been gathered. Thus both hands are left free to pull off the blades. This is the saving of one hand in the work. We give a cut of this little instrument.



It explains itself. This is among the many labor-saving implements that inventive genius has contributed toward lessening the manual toil of the farmer, but which are often neglected because our farmers do not sufficiently study the agricultural journals of the day, or even put themselves in the way of knowledge, upon the exploded theory that book-farming don't pay.

Culture of Wheat.

An article to be found elsewhere in this number of the FARMER will be found to give full details in respect to this crop, whether as regards preparation, soil, or the constituents necessary to be present in growing a good crop of wheat. We may say, however, here, briefly, that a good loam inclining to clay is the soil for wheat and that the subsoil should be sound and dry. The best depth of seeding ranges from one to two inches, and the best method of seeding is to drill it in. If the soil has an excess of nitrogenous matter, the wheat will run to straw, and especially if the phosphate and potash are comparatively defficient. It is the nitrogenous matters that promote the growth of the stem and blades of wheat, and the phosphates that go to the production of the grain. Therefore there should be a sufficiency of each element in the soil for a large yield of grain to be expected. Both stem and blade must be strong and vigorous to produce large and well filled heads of plump and heavy grain. We think that wheat may now be seeded earlier than has been the custom of late, as there have been recently fewer ravages from the fly, and consequently the wheat would be able to take firmer root-hold of the soil before the winter sets in. The seed wheat ought also to be selected grain, plump and heavy, and from a poorer soil rather than a richer. It has been, moreover, established by analytical chemists, and by the universal experience of intelligent farmers, that a good clover ley is the best preparation for a crop of wheat, inasmuch as it contains all the fertilizing elements in which the wheat delights. We simply, therefore, state briefly that the

Soil best adapted for wheat is—A clay loam.

Best preparation for wheat—A clover ley.

Depth of Seeding—From one to two inches.

Method of Seeding—By drill or broadcast, but the drill is to be preferred.

Time of Seeding.—From the 15th of September to the 7th of October.

Quantity of Seed per Acre.—Drilled, five pecks; broadcast, not less than two bushels.

Cleaning Granaries.

Attend to these. Fumigate them with sulphur according to the plan so often advised, and whitewash all the interior walls, floors, sides and rafters thoroughly.

Fruit Drying, Canning and Evaporating.

There is no domestic industry that is growing so popular as is the canning, drying and evaporating of fruit. It pays well for the labor and machinery required, and saves thousands of dollars of fruits and vegetables that otherwise would be lost. It requires cheap labor only. Every farmer's family has usually small girls and boys, aged men and women, who are well suited to such employment. The older children—young men and women, who would make the gathering of fruits and vegetables, the preparation of the same and the drying or evaporating, a pastime and pleasant occupation rather than a serious, arduous work. A dryer and evaporator suitable for an ordinary farm can be had for less than $100. With such a dryer, more fruit alone could be evaporated by a few otherwise unproductive hands—even if the fruit had to be bought—than would pay twice over for the machine, besides, these fruits, or most of them, would be lost, except for such preservation. After the fruit season is well over, corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, egg-plants, etc., could be evaporated, so as to be next spring and early summer almost as fresh as if taken fresh from the field. In winter, apples, cocoa-nuts, etc., which show signs of not keeping well, can be evaporated and dried, so that after water was added to them when to be used they would cook and eat as fresh as when plucked from the trees. Thus we have a recipe in our own power to save all our fruit—extra vegetables and such other things as lose nearly all their value when they pass the green or ripe condition, such as roasting ear corn, tomatoes, etc., which would be a total loss without these convenient and cheap evaporators. Evaporated fruit sells readily for nearly as much as the same fruit would bring in its season in the market.

In this connection we call attention to an important but cheap implement lately invented by Mr. Wm. R. Sherman, of Baltimore, called "Sherman's Patent Peach Stoner and Parer." We give a cut of it.

This implement stones, and at the same time halves the peach in as ready a manner as if it were freestone, *without any waste of the fruit.* This implement combines a stoner and a nice little paring knife. Some of our choicest peaches are clingstones and are the best for canning or evaporating, yet are not salable to the large buyers for such purposes because of the difficulty of getting rid of the stone. This little invention obviates all the difficulty, and if it gets into general use, we who admire the cling over the openstone

peach will have that delicious member of the peach family, as abundant as is the open-stone varieties, and they will become more popular than are just now the open-stone. For ourselves, we would, for eating or preserving in any way, prefer an Old Mixon Cling, for instance, to an Old Mixon Free, and both are among the best peaches for August or early September that we have yet recognized as far as our taste goes.

Setting Out Orchards.

Do not neglect to prepare at once, the land to be planted in orchard trees, by deep plowing, subsoiling if practicable, heavy manuring and nice culture, so as to have it in readiness for planting the trees in October.

Sowing Rye.

Best Soil for Rye.—A sandy loam, a rich sandy alluvial, or bottom land, being the best of all, provided it be laid perfectly dry by draining.

Quantity of Seed to the Acre.—If seeded after August not less than six pecks.

Garden Work for September.

The work for the month is as follows:

Spinach.—The spinach that is well advanced for autumn use should now be thinned out and carefully hoed. For a fresh supply, to come in early in the spring, the ground must be made very rich, dug deeply, and thoroughly pulverized When this is done, and all is raked smooth, lay off the beds in drills nine inches apart and half an inch deep. Sow thinly along the drills, at any time between the 1st and the 15th of the month. As soon as winter approaches cover the young plants lightly with straw or brush or cedar branches. The prickly spinach is the hardiest variety. As soon as the young plants have leaves an inch broad, thin out so as to stand four inches apart, and hoe them.

Lettuce.—Set out from the seed bed such lettuce plants as are well advanced. For winter use sow fresh seed early this month, either in the open air or in cold frames. If the plants are to stand out all through the winter, they will need a light covering of straw, or cedar brush, or any rough material that will not smother them

Radishes—Sow early in the month Chinese Rose or White Radish, or Black Spanish Radish, in a warm exposure on rich, fresh soil and water freely if the weather proves dry.

Endive.—Set out endive plants; the curled green variety is best. Let the rows be fourteen inches apart, and the distance between the plants twelve inches. As they advance in growth keep the soil loose and clean, and draw a little earth to the stems. Choose, if possible, a mellow soil and make it rich.

Celery—Earth up celery on dry days—avoid covering the hearts of the plants, and water liberally occasionally.

Turnips.—Thin and hoe these to six inches apart, and keep the soil loose and free of weeds.

Cabbages—About the 10th of the month prepare, by heavy manuring and deep spading, a bed for the reception of cabbage seed Rake it well, and sow in separate divisions of the bed the seed of such varieties of cabbage as it may be desirable to select to stand out through winter. Sow the seed moderately thick, rake off evenly, and press the earth upon the seed by patting the bed with the back of the spade. If the weather proves dry, water freely. Towards the close of October the plants will be ready to set out in rows where they are to stand through the winter.

Sowing Cauliflower Seed.—Between the 10th and the 20th of the month prepare a seed bed as recommended for cabbage Sow the cauliflower seed and treat the young plants when large enough, precisely as recommended for cabbage. In about five weeks transplant from the bed into cold frames, where the plants are to remain through the winter

Siberian Kale—Make the bed intended for kale very rich, by using none but the best well rotted manure. Spade it deeply, rake off fine, and lay the bed off into drills. Sow the seed thinly along the rows. They may be seeded broadcast if preferred, and then pat down the soil after raking with the spade. If a larger quantity of kale is to be raised in a truck patch, proceed with plough and harrow and heavy manuring in a similar manner.

Gathering Seed—As the autumn seed ripen gather them, spread them out on cloths to dry, but protect them from the rains When they are dry put them carefully into bags, and lable each bag with the name of the seed it contains. Hang up the bags for the winter in a dry place, and out of the reach of mice and rats.

Planting out Herbs—Towards the close of the month all kinds of pot and medicinal herbs may be set out in moist weather.

TOBACCO.—Maryland raises annually 56,082,147 lbs. of tobacco, on 38,174 acres, or an average of 683 lbs. to an acre. Connecticut averages 1,620 lbs., Massachusetts 1,599 lbs., and Virginia 573 lbs. to the acre. Kentucky grows 171,121,134 lbs. of tobacco, averaging 756 lbs. to the acre, and over one-third of the entire tobacco crop of the country.

Our London Letter.

EUROPEAN CROP PROSPECTS.

(Regular Correspondence.)

LONDON, England, July 30, 1882.

At a time when it is known that the wheat crop in the United States is the largest since 1880 and larger perhaps than the splendid yield of that year, it will be interesting to some of your readers to learn of the crop prospects of Europe, which so materially affect the American grain market.

The trade for foreign wheat off-stands in London has been checked by finer weather, large spot supplies, and declining values in the United States. Business has been restricted, and values were weaker on Wednesday and on Friday than on the previous Monday, and, although they remain nominally unchanged, some concessions to buyers have occasionally been made. At the close of Friday's market some holders became steadier in their demands, probably on account of the off-coast supply having for the moment run out. All things considered, however, the position of the trade must be considered weaker at the close of the week than at its commencement. The supply to the port of London down to Friday had been unusually heavy, namely, 293,160 bushels from India, 270,144 bushels from Russia, 176,184 bushels from Australia and New Zealand, and 165,032 bushels from U. S. Atlantic ports. After the heavy thunderstorms which occurred during the early days of the past week the rain-fall has been but slight, and the weather has been for the most part sultry and overcast. The nights have been more or less chilly, and the hazy evenings and mornings have been of quite an autumnal character. During the month of July the weather has been broken and unsettled, and its influence on the wheat crop has been mostly of an unfavorable character. The month of July has naturally much to do with the ultimate result of the harvest, but the condition of the wheat plant as it stands at the close of the month is the outcome of a series of adverse influences commencing with the end of March, and to which the weather of July has but formed the part which has given the finishing touch to the whole. There probably has rarely been a season more persistently adverse to the proper development of the wheat plant, and July closes without the ground having once become warm. During the present week, should the weather permit, the earlier portion of the crop will be cut south of a line drawn from the mouth of the Severn to the Wash, and in the second week of August wheat harvest may be expected to become general south of the Humber. Toward the close of the past week the wheats have whitened fast for harvest, and the records of the thrashing machine will soon take the place of remarks on the standing crop. Spring corn, on the whole, has been benefitted by the month of July, and the oat crop seems likely to prove the best of the cereals in English counties. The trade for English wheat has come almost to a standstill from the scarcity of newly thrashed samples on offer, and native wheats have maintained a level in values, which is relatively about 6½ cents per bushel higher than that of foreign equivalents. In Western Europe the early part of the week was stormy, and in the south of France—where harvest has been completed—the newly thrashed wheat has come to market in very poor condition. In Germany the earliest thrashings of the new crop of rye are said to be causing much dissatisfaction, the quality of the grain falling short of the expectations formed of it. Heavy rains fell on Friday in Austria, and floods have occurred in the Danubian provinces, and in Hungary, doing great damage to the crops.

TURN CORN INTO MEAT AT HOME.—American farmers would find it to their pecuniary advantage were they to feed more of their corn to meat-producing animals on their own farms rather than to allow it to be shipped to other countries, there to be converted into meat. The great bulk of American corn is fed at home and there is no good reason why it should not all be disposed of in this way. The profits would thus all accrue to American farmers, and the difference between the cost of transporting the corn in bulk and that of sending the meat abroad would be saved. The pig is very generally considered to be more perfectly adapted to the conversion of corn into meat than any other of our domestic animals, and among the different breeds of pigs none excell the Berkshires as economical producers of the most salable meats, fresh or cured.—*London Live Stock Journal.*

For the Maryland Farmer:

Sheep and Dogs.

BY COL. A. L. TAVEAU.

What can we say new about the subject of this article, whose fleece and hoof have both been said to have possessed the virtue of gold, and of which so much has already been so well said by that Prince of shepherds in his well-known work, "Randall on the Sheep." And yet, despite the aphorism of the Man of Wisdom, that 'there is nothing new under the sun,' nevertheless, we will endeavor, from our own personal experience, to throw such light upon the subject, and in so plain a way, as that "he who runs may read,"

In the first place, then, we would say to the new beginner, to beware of that "high-vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself and falls on th' other side." Let him not be too anxious to have a large flock in commencing his experiment—for, in his case, it is really experimental—for, if matters go wrong, to which all embryotic schemes are liable, he will literally find that they "die like sheep." Let him then be content to go, as the French say: *a petit pas*. Let him begin with say twenty-five ewes, and a first-class buck; all to be of the first quality: for scalawags in sheep will pay no better than scalawags in anything else—be they man or beast.

As we are writing chiefly for the Middle States, we would say, *imprimis*, that the Cotswolds and Southdowns will give the best returns, both as to lambs and wool. Perhaps the most profitable cross, both for the butcher and wool, would be a flock of Cotswold ewes and a Southdown buck. According to "Walker on inter-marriage," the large Cotswold ewe will give to the lambs a heavy carcass and good wool; while the Southdown buck will add the much valued beauties of the black nose, and fine flavor of the mutton—which latter circumstance it will be well to bear in mind with regard to the butchers who buy the lambs—the "black-noses" being always preferred by them to the "white-faces."

Having carefully selected a flock in which there is no blemish, the next thing to be considered will be the sheep-fold. This is the *sine qua non* of success, if the farmer expects to keep sheep for profit; for without a good sheep-fold, there can be no certainty of success. Sheep-raising, with proper care, is a very simple thing; provided the farmer is "fixed for it"—otherwise, failure may be looked for with certainty. And, before going farther, we will say, that it is a law, as imperative as the laws of the Medes and Persians, that sheep must be folded *every night*—be the weather hot or cold—if the farmer expects to avoid the attacks of his deadly enemy the *Dog*. As a general rule, sheep are killed by dogs at night, when left out in pasture—safely secured at night, in a good sheep-fold, such a "horror" rarely occurs; and, by a little patience in training them to come up at sunset to a regular "call," and rewarding them on their arrival at the fold with a little corn, they soon learn to respond from any reasonable distance; and, in fact, after awhile, they will prefer to be folded at night to being "left out in the cold." But, of course, once folded, the fold should be one which is secure against the entrance of the "midnight foe;" and the plan of a building herewith recommended, will be a fair model for the beginner to follow.

To describe it, we will say, that for a flock of twenty-five ewes and a buck, as mentioned in the beginning, the house may be a frame building, 25x20: corner-posts to be 10 ft. high, with a square roof. Let the building always front South: because it will be warm in winter, and cool in summer. Cover the West, North, and East sides with perpendicular planking, without any battens, so that when the planks shrink, spaces of about a half inch will be left between the boarding to afford *ventilation*—a matter of the first importance to sheep, in *any* weather. Let the front, or South side, be picketted with 7 ft. pickets, sharpened at their tops. Divide the fold in half with pickets 5 ft high; and have a good front picket gate to each division. The object of this division is that, towards the lambing-season, the ewes which are "sprung," and thus known to be about to drop their young, may be separated at night from the main flock, which is of the highest importance for the good behavior of the mother, as well as for the safety of the young lambs when dropped; as, in the early stage of their existence, they are liable to be butted, or trampled to death, by the rest of the flock.

This brings us to the subject of lambing, upon the good management of which de-

pends the whole success of the business. We have found, from long experience, that the first forty-eight hours of a lamb's existence is the most critical period. If a lamb can be taught to suck, and remains confined with its dam during that time, afterwards it will follow her to pasture without risk. For the simple reason that, during that period, it learns how to suck with confidence and energy; becomes familiar with the "grutting-call" of its mother; and, above all, it acquires *strength* enough to follow her; and we can say, from close observation, that for the want of the latter ability, more lambs are lost which are dropped in pasture than from any other cause. For sheep being a gregarious animal, if it drops a weak lamb in pasture, and the whole flock strays off, if the lamb is unable from feebleness to follow its dam, she will cruelly leave it behind to perish.

With regard to young ewes, much patience must be exhibited towards them with their *first lamb*. Sometimes they will disown it; in which case we have found the best method was to halter the mother in the fold; and, holding up the chin of the lamb, thus aid it to acquire the art of sucking; which operation must be repeated every two or three hours. If the mother proves obstreperous, and "kicks," which, as a general rule she will do, and thus maim, or kill its young; let an assistant, facing backwards, straddle the neck of the mother, to hold her still, while a second person assists the lamb to suck. In a day or two the lamb will learn how to "work for its living;" and the maternal instinct will develop itself to the extent of acquiescing in the novel performance.

Supposing then that the whole flock have been "safely delivered," and everything is *en train*, and that they are enjoying themselves in the meadow, the next thing to be thought of will be the shearing, and, during this operation, we must not forget to destroy the probable crop of "sheep-ticks," which are, at this moment, the probable cause of the old sheep rubbing themselves against the rough bark of trees and fence sides. To destroy these vermin, a a good time to do so will be during the shearing. On the day the flock is to be sheared, let the farmer procure a good water-tight barrel, and place it near the fold. Let him put a very large pot of water over a good fire; and, when the water is boiling-hot, fill the pot with leaf-tobacco to one-fourth its capacity; and, when the decoction becomes the color of strong coffee, pour it off into the barrel to cool; repeat this until the barrel is about two thirds full. Just before commencing to shear the old sheep, catch the lambs, one by one; and, holding the feet together in one hand and the nose in the other hand, dip the lamb down *thoroughly* into the barrel of tobacco water. As soon as each lamb is dipped, turn it loose in a lot, or pasture, where there is sun, in order that it may dry off without *chilling*. It will be found upon examination, that by this bath every tick has been almost immediately killed. If the lambs can be allowed to join their dams soon after the shearing, it will be found to be of great advantage, as the shock produced by the change of appearance in the dams after being sheared, and the chocolate color of the fleece of the lambs from the dipping, produces a momentary confusion; which, if imprudently prolonged, will cause an estrangement to spring up between mother and lamb, which may cause much embarrassment and produce trouble afterwards.

With regard to shearing, the art being as old as the days of Abraham, and so many "professionals" now-a-days attend to this matter, that it is almost the better plan to have such persons to do it. But for the preparing the fleece for the modern market, too much care cannot be taken. Competition is so great that to sell *anything* to advantage it must *look* well. And this holds good as well with fleeces as anything else; therefore, we say, if you wish to get the top of the market for your wool, prepare your fleeces properly. When the fleece is taken from the sheep—presupposing of course that in the operation of shearing it has not been torn into rags—lay it upon a good long ample table. Let two cords of hardware twine be stretched a foot apart the length of the table; one end of each cord to be caught in a notch at the upper end of the table, and the rest of the cords having first been passed through two gimlet-holes in the lower end of the table, remain attached to the two balls upon the floor. Lay the fleece upon the table over the cords, "outside up"—the neck at the farther end of the table. Fold the two sides inwards to the center, edge to edge;

then fold the neck part over to the center; then the hind quarter to meet the neck; then fold the two sides, once more, together, with their edges upwards; roll up the fleece tightly from the neck towards the hinder part; tie it as compactly as possible with the two cords, like the two straps to a soldier's knapsack; cut the cords, and the fleece will then look like a ball of gold. Weigh it, and credit each particular sheep with the weight of its own fleece. Make a sack out of gunny cloth, resembling in shape the bales of Sea-island cotton, *i. e.*, long and narrow, and tramp the fleeces into it with strength. Sew up the mouth of the sack, stencil it with the owner's name, and mark the total number of pounds upon it. This latter item tends to save dispute in its sale, if it is shipped to an agent.

Next in order will come the sale of lambs. In this of course the farmer will judge for himself; but we say never sell lambs until they are well grown, say from seventy to eighty pounds weight. For the grass will still be growing, and it costs nothing to keep them until they are at their best. In selling lambs, it is always judicious to retain the ewe-lambs, for the purpose of keeping up the standard of the flock. Sell, therefore, only the wether-lambs, and the old ewes that are beginning to fail—retaining now and then some fine buck-lamb for stock purposes.

Buck-lambs should be castrated within four weeks of their birth; and, at the same time, cutting the tails of all the lambs, called "docking," should be done. This docking is of great importance to the future comfort of the sheep in case of "scours." The first operation should always be done only by an experienced person; for, although the operation is a very simple one, nevertheless, it requires skill. The latter, "docking," almost any one can do. Let one assistant, seated, hold the lamb with its back against his breast; with his left hand he holds the tail firmly down on a stout plank, at the same time drawing the skin towards the lamb. The operator then, with a chisel and mallet, cuts the tail off at one blow, about an inch and a half from the buttocks; selecting a joint for the purpose. A little salt and water, applied immediately, will arrest any serious hemorrhage that might otherwise follow. Sometimes a fastidious ewe will reject her lamb on account of the smell of blood. In this case confine the mother and lamb together for a day or two, and she will receive it again.

With regard to the vital point, the profit in sheep, we would say that if the farmer desires a goodly number of lambs, raised with the least trouble, they should not be dropped before the first of April. This can always be accomplished by keeping the buck separate from the flock, and only letting him join the ewes on the first of November. After he has been with them six weeks, remove him again until the next season. This is always a good plan, as he frequently, if allowed to remain with the flock, buts the pregnant ewes with great cruelty, and prevents them from lying down and resting, by a continual worry.

When lambs thus come in April, the weather is genial, and the grass is all springing up, and the ewes, having thus a plenty of succulent food, are better able to furnish a generous supply of milk. The lambs, consequently, under the benign influence of sunshine, plenty of milk, and young grass to nibble, thrive better, grow faster, and the percentage of loss is *nil* compared to the loss of winter lambs exposed to cold and snow.

Lambs should be weaned about the fifth month after they are dropped; and, if possible the whole flock should be weaned at once: as this saves a great deal of trouble. In weaning them, select a good, fair day, and try and so arrange it that the respective pastures are so situated that the mothers will not hear the bleating of their young; for, if not, the weaning will be much retarded. Select the *best* pasture for turning the lambs into, and the *poorest* for the dams; in order that the lambs may have plenty to eat, and the ewes little, so that they may "dry up," and stop the flow of milk. About a week's separation will generally be sufficient to accomplish the estrangement necessary for weaning; after that time they may be permitted to run together again. Sometimes a ewe will, in spite of the weaning, continue to make milk; which will be known by the appearance of her bag. In such a case, it will be necessary, at times, to relieve her by hand; otherwise, her bag may "cake," and thus injure her future usefulness as a mother.

In conclusion, we would say that no amount of dog-laws can ever prevent dogs

from killing sheep, if they are left out in an exposed, and often isolated pasture, night after night. It is the nature of the sheep to flee at the sight of a dog, and it is the nature of the dog to chase, not only sheep, but anything else, man or beast, that runs away from him. No dog-law which does not authorize the farmer to shoot any dog found trespassing upon his premises, unaccompanied by its owner, can ever be of any practical value to the farmer. A law which requires the farmer to wait until his sheep are chased and killed, is a mockery of justice—"prevention is better than cure." If the Legislature will not do this, then let the farmers universally adopt the plan of *folding their sheep* every night, winter and summer, in a dog-proof sheep-fold as herein described; and they will find that they will be "a law unto themselves."

[We are much indebted to our friend Col. Taveau for the above excellent essay and feel sure it will be read with as much pleasure as profit by all who own sheep. The suggestions he makes are mostly new ones, and will so impress themselves upon our readers as will lead to a practical following of the advice given. Those who may be novices in sheep-breeding, who want a hand-book of advice, can do no better than read and preserve this article for future reference. Col. T.'s suggestions about dogs are excellent. With a plentiful number of sheep-bells of different sizes, and herding at night in a large sized fold, dog-proof, would insure these helpless animals against harm, and secure to their owner a rich annual reward for his trouble and enterprise.—EDS. MD. FAR.

Liberal Use of Manure.

J. Bridgeman, of the Elmira Farmer,s Club, illustrates the value of the liberal application of barnyard manure by the following story:—"A story of my early observation comes to my mind. When I was eighteen years old my father was going away from the farm for a few days, and he gave me a task to perform in his absence It was to draw out manure to a lot assigned. I had a young associate, Perry Stowell, who was to help me, but neither of us knew how closely the loads should be placed, so we drew seventy-five loads with a yoke of three-year-old steers and one horse as our team, and when we had finished it was found that we had put all those big loads on an acre and a half. That was thirty years ago, but the ground that was dressed so heavily has in all that time never forgotten the application. If I plough it for grain I get a bigger crop than from any other like area in the field, it brings more corn, more grass, in fact it feels that manure to this day, although I cannot suppose any of the substance is left. The fact is that it made that acre and a half so much better than the other land alongside that bigger crops were a matter of course, and the very fact of raising bigger crops implies more refuse matter to decay in the soil, and so maintain fertility in the first place imparted, in this case, by the seventy five loads of manure. There is always a stiffer sod, stronger growth on that land, making it worth enough more to pay for what at the time was considered wasteful use of the manure.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Wheat Culture.

AMMONIATED AND NON-AMMONIATED FERTILIZERS. — PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF THEIR APPLICATION TO WHEAT AND CORN.

Editors Maryland Farmer:—Feeling a very deep interest in agriculture, and being desirous of promoting its interest whenever I can, I have written the following article on wheat culture, and given you my experience in the use of ammoniated and non-ammoniated fertilizers. If you do not think it of sufficient interest for publication please consign it to the waste basket.

Preparation of the land is the first in order, this should be done when fallow is being prepared as early in the summer as possible. I prefer having my land all thoroughly plowed, the sod being uniformly inverted, and at as great a depth as any good plow can bury it, provided the subsoil is not brought to the surface. After plowing, which should be completed as early in August as possible, I use a heavy roller and Acme Harrow, to fill up the interstices and assist in settling the earth and making it as compact and fine as possible. This thorough compactness and pulverization I regard *the* great essential in the

preparation of land for wheat. I now apply my barnyard manure, and before grass starts to grow (as I propose keeping my seed bed free from either grass or weeds) I have a spring-tooth harrow run over the ground which mixes the manure with the surface earth and destroys the young grass and weeds and keeps the ground in condition to receive and retain the beneficial atmospheric influences. After this treatment I can generally dispense with further cultivation until just before seeding wheat, at which time I have spring-tooth harrow and Thomas' smoothing harrow and roller used to put the seed bed in as fine and solid condition as possible. I prefer preceding my drill with the roller, and immediately after drilling, roll again. This latter process I regard very important, although many good farmers think differently. My reason for adopting the plan of rolling after the drill is that the surface of the seed bed may be as nearly as possible of the same degree of compactness as that portion of the seed bed immediately under the freshly deposited grain. My experience with this process is that I have no winter killing of wheat, my wheat invariably making such vigorous root growth in compact soil that it is not thrown out of the ground. On the contrary, if I was not to roll after seeding, (unless a rain should fall to settle the ground very soon thereafter), the very fine porous earth loosened up by the tine of the drill would be the only covering for the wheat and would necessarily be much more congenial to the young delicate rootlets than the harder and more compact soil immediately under the point of the tine when the grain is deposited. The result of this last, let alone process, is that the surface becomes one mass of roots, and the wheat may look equally as well in the fall as upon the land where the roller had been used, that is, provided this surface soil has fertility sufficient to keep the wheat in vigorous growth until overtaken by freezing weather, and it is at this point the trouble begins, the unrolled wheat has no depth of root, it lays upon the surface feeding upon the congenial, loose soil, until overtaken by winter and then remains quiescent until favorable weather for its growth. When this period arises, the wheat makes an effort to find more food, the freezing and thawing process has broken off the young feeders and it is a struggle for fresh food until the weather becomes permanently settled; by this time the fly makes its appearance, and now again begins a new battle for life, with impaired constitution, and all because of not applying the proper remedy immediately after seeding. While living in Baltimore county, I tested this matter thoroughly. I had a neighbor who prepared his land (which was of the same character of soil as my own) in the most perfect manner, the only difference in our cultivation was, he would not roll after seeding and I did, his crop for several years in succession was 22 bushels per acre and mine 30. He attributed the difference to the kind of wheat and bought his seed of me; the difference in yield per acre continued the same. He would not roll after seeding because he considered the loose earth the tine drew up between the rows of wheat, was a grand thing to recover the wheat roots that the frost threw out of the ground. I was raised a merchant, he a farmer, consequently he knew better than I. My wheat was not thrown out, his was; my wheat grew off promptly in the spring out of the reach of the fly, his wheat was affected by the fly. My experience is, that thorough preparation, as above described, and early seeding, say from the 20th of September to the 10th of October in this locality, and in Maryland from 10th to 20th of September, with an application of dissolved South Carolina Rock and Kainit will almost insure a crop of wheat.

In seeding corn stubble I prefer having the corn cut off and twenty-four rows shocked together, and then use the spring tooth harrow to prepare the seed bed. The corn should be kept as clean of grass and weeds as possible, for the benefit of the corn in the first place, and to save labor in preparing the land for wheat in the second. After a thorough test of ammoniated and non-ammoniated manures, of the very best and most reliable brands, on wheat, corn, and oats, I find South Carolina Rock and Kanit to produce results, in every case, equal, and in a number of instances superior to the ammoniated fertilizer. I have been making these tests carefully for three years and will give you the particulars of my experiments in a future article, if you desire me to do so.

Very respectfully yours,

T. R. CRANE,

"Mantua Farm," Northumberland Co., Va,

[We hope our intelligent correspondent will continue his interesting letters and give our readers the benefit of his experiments.—Eds. Md. Far.]

For the Maryland Farmer.

How is Wheat Killed?

It is rare in Ohio for wheat to have such a struggle for existence as has been the case since last fall, but I am convinced that winter freezing is not all the enemies wheat has, and that wheat may be poisoned is far more likely, such a winter as the past one, than that it is frozen to death.

Wheat may be lifted so far out of the soil that its toes cannot touch, and wheat may die with its roots well secured by soil, so some other agency will have to be accounted for. Aside from being thrown out, two other causes may be considered—poisoning and decay; the latter probably a result induced by the former. Naturally wheat is a very hardy, vigorous plant, and causes outside of the ordinary must be the cause. Is it the soil itself? All good wheat lands contain a large percent of humus, not the raw, unbroken vegetable matter of the peat swamp, but matter that decay has carried to the point of solubility, occasioned by exposure to the oxygen of the air, and the acids burned out; and yet it is on the best wheat lands that killing is far from uncommon. Now for an example. If water remains for a long time in the soil in an inactive state, that is, not giving place for a new supply, decomposition of this humus follows this stagnation, and humic acid results, an element in itself destructive to plant life. The inference is plain. The wheat plant has a tendency to grow in the winter if the conditions are at all favorable, and this acid being absorbed death is the result, followed by decay; and we say that the wet weather has rotted the wheat, when the probabilities are that it was first killed by the acid, decay following as a natural result.

On lands provided with a liberal drainage, wheat can not be materially injured, for the overflow quickly subsides, the drains leave no surplus water and an over-supply is carried away before another comes; but on land that holds this water, and drainage is only afforded by percolation, and evaporation, the water becomes stagnant before the conditions of moisture are reduced to a normal standard.

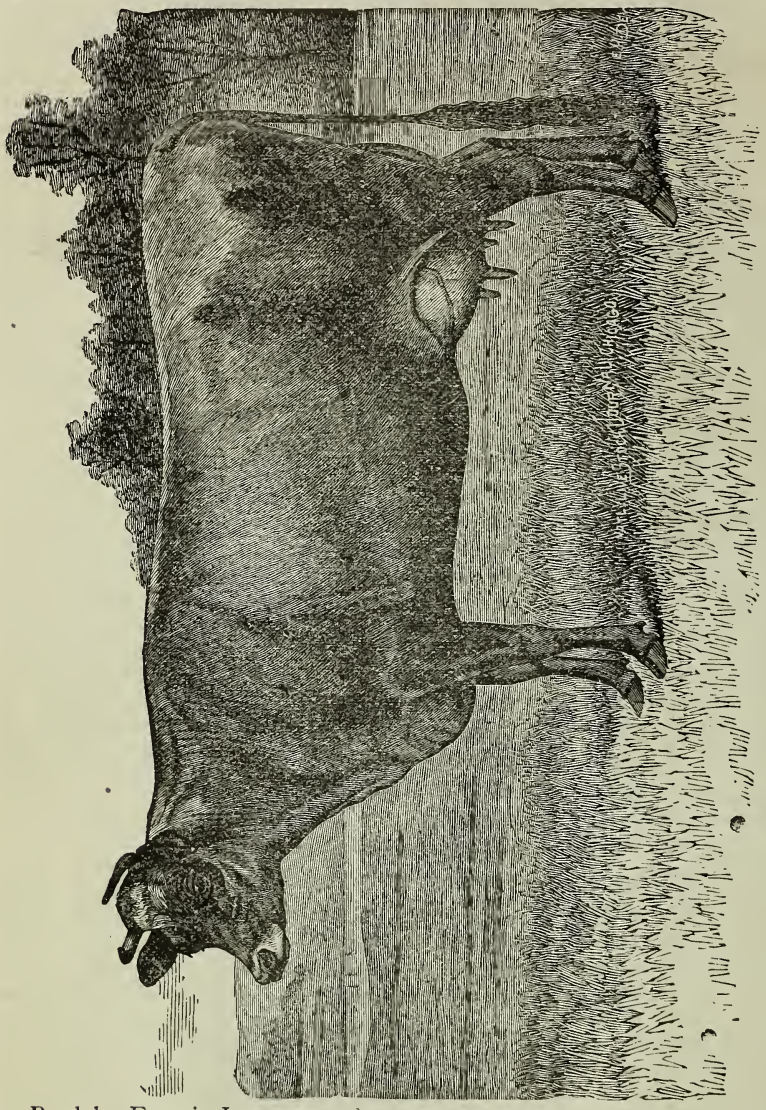
The advantages of drainage may be seen from this fact, that while clay will take only one-half its weight in water, humus will take twice its weight, and retain it nearly twice as long, having the power to retard evaporation, a very valuable feature in the summer, but equally as undesirable in the winter; and hence, the almost imperative demand for ample drainage of our wheat fields.

In long, cold winters where the ground is frozen solid for months, the liability of wheat killing is greatly lessened, but in winters like the one just experienced, the safety of wheat depends upon the draining all surplus water from the soil before stagnation has time to assert itself by the formation of deadly gases. We can also see the good effect of bone meal, not only by giving the wheat a vigorous hold upon the soil by extending its roots, but also by neutralizing the acids formed by the surplus water. Will Dr. A. P. Sharp give us his views upon this point? J. G.

Ohio.

The Cost of Fences.

It is a fact that the fences of the United States have cost more than the land, and they are to-day the most valuable class of property in the United States, except buildings, railroads and real estate in cities. To keep up the fences requires annually an enormous consumption of timber. The 125,000 farms in Kentucky required 150,000,000 panels of fence to enclose them. The number of rails required is set down at 2,000,000,000, costing $75,000,000. To repair and keep in good order the fences in this one State alone costs annually $10,000,000. Illinois, a comparatively new State, has $200,000,000 invested in fences, but it costs her only about $360,000 annually for repairs, many of her fences being constructed of wire. The whole value of the fences in the United States may be set down at $2,000,000,000, and it costs $100,000,000 annually to keep them in repair.

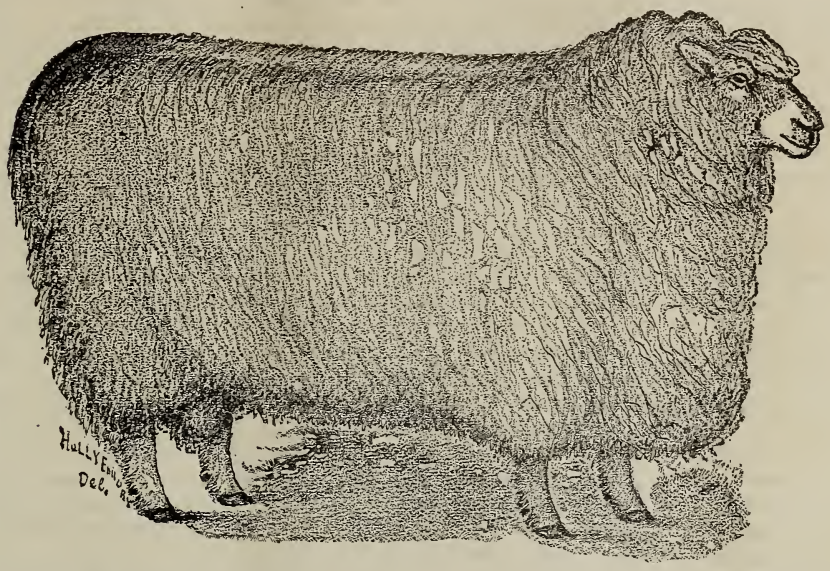


Jersey Cow, Lady Jane of St. Peters.—7475.

Bred by Francis Le Brocq, St. Peters. Dropped March, 1878. Solid squirrel gray; black points; perfect deer-like head: small, incurved horns; fine selvage escutcheon—a model Jersey cow.

Lady Jane of St. Peters, in her three-year-old form, made over 12 pounds of butter in 7 days, on pasture alone, three months after calving; and in November following, nearly nine months after dropping her second calf, and six months after becoming pregnant, she gave over 8 pounds of butter per week. She milks heavily and persistently, never having been dried since dropping her first calf. Her udder is remarkable for size and beauty, running well forward and up behind, soft and yellow, teats of fine size and squarely set on. Her head and neck resemble those of a fawn, and taken all in all she is a model of perfection.

We are indebted for the above illustration to Messrs. Churchman & Jackson, of Beech Grove Farm, Ingallston, Marion Co., Ind.



Cotswold Buck, "CANADIAN, 1289," property of Edward B. Emory, Poplar Grove Farm, Md.

The above is a portrait taken from life, of a superior Cotswold buck, owned by E. B. Emory, Esq., of Poplar Grove Farm, near Centreville, Maryland. This buck was bred in Canada, by J. Snell's sons. On the 1st of April, 1882, he weighed 255 lbs., and sheared 17½ lbs. of clean wool. His owner writes us:

"If I had let him run until 1st June, until all the grease had sweated from his body and attached itself to his wool, probably one of those big records above 20 lbs would have been reached.

He is not of the ringlet or hairy kind, so much despised by the wool dealers of the present day, but carries a thick, felty fleece, being in texture as near a middle wool as it is possible to obtain upon the back of a Cotswold. His broad, full chest and generally heavy carcass gives evidence of his strong constitution, and the closeness of his wool defies the penetration of the severest storms.

"His lambs are particularly fine and his buck lambs are offered for sale, but the ewe lambs will all be reserved at Poplar Grove for breeding."

JERSEY COW "VALENA HOFFMAN," 4500, is the coming great butter cow of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and a rival of "*Value 2nd*," of the Western Shore, is now owned by Mr. Samuel T. Earle, who bought her of his son, Dr. S. T. Earle, November, 1881, after her week's record of 19 lbs. 13 oz. of butter. She was bred by John Ridgely, of Hampton, Baltimore county, sired by imp. "Orange Peel," and on the part of her dam partakes 12½ per-cent of the blood of Alphea. Her last calf —a heifer—came on Dec. 30th., 1881, and she was again served on the 27th of February, 1882, making her seven months after calving and nearly five months in calf at the time of her last butter test. As there seemed to be some doubt as to her ownership and name in one of our Agricultural Journals, we wrote to Dr. Earle asking for information and received from his father a letter, from which we copy the following extracts:

"I was away from home for a week when the test stopped, on my return I put her under test again, but very soon found she

would not do so well as she had done, as it was the commencement of the fly season, and they were very numerous and affected her so much as to reduce her seven days making to 17 lbs.; on the second week I found she was on the increase again, although the flies seem to be very bad, but suppose she had in a measure become accustomed to them, as on Saturday, July 15, her butter for the seven days making was carefully weighed by Joseph E. Elliott & Bro., one of our largest stores in merchandise, and they returned the weight to me on a slip of paper 19¼ lbs. On Saturday last, the 22d of July, the seven days churning was again sent to the same place, carefully weighed, and they returned the weight in same way 21 lbs. We are still continuing the test and should she still farther increase, will inform you. She is certainly a very remarkable cow, for to all appearance you can see nothing to indicate a remarkable milker, her bag is not large and rather fleshy, and after the milk is drawn from the bag, to all appearance, you could hardly tell she had been milked. I don't think she has ever exceeded three gallons of milk a day, but of the very richest character. Her udder is golden color."

To this, Dr. Earle adds the following post-script:

"In addition, I will add to what father has already written, that for two years past her feed has consisted of ground corn chops, ½ gallon twice a day during cold weather and from ½ to 1 gallon ship-feed during summer, with the addition this summer, but not for several weeks past, of about ½ gallon cornmeal to the ship-feed. I own two of her heifers, Winton and Milfield, the first has already a record of 11 lbs in seven days." S. T. EARLE.

Maryland Cattle Interest.

At the quarterly meeting of the Maryland Improved Live-Stock Breeders' Association in Baltimore, on 9th ult, a number of prominent breeders being present. T. Alex. Seth, Esq., the secretary, offered the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted:

"WHEREAS during the past few months the Western and Southern agricultural press has asserted in the most positive terms that contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists, and is on the increase among the cattle in many sections of our State; and whereas such assertions, whether true or false, are equally damaging to our interests as breeders of improved live stock; and whereas we believe that ample provision for stamping out the disease has been made by the General Assembly of Maryland in its act of 1880, which needs only vigorous enforcement to accomplish the purpose; and whereas the Governor has asked our assistance in ferreting out the existence of the disease, which is in many instances concealed until the diseased animals have been disposed of, thus adding greatly to the dangers of its increase; therefore

"*Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the Governor for his declared intention to put in force the act of 1880, and that we respectfully appeal to him to at once issue the necessary proclamation and quarantine the herds where necessary, and pledge him our hearty co-operation.

"*Resolved*, That each member of this association be pledged to send the secretary the location of all animals or herds affected or supposed to be affected with this or other contagious disease, to be by him transmitted to the Governor.

"*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the secretary to keep secret the sources of such information."

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PORK-GROWERS.—Mr. Davis, United States commercial agent at Gloucester, England, writing to the Department of State says: "American provisions are now sold in every city, town, village and hamlet in this district, and in view of the fact that swine fever is now prevalent and hogs are being slaughtered in large numbers to prevent its spreading, American bacon and hams will be in increased demand and the price considerably advanced. * * * We cannot hope for a supply of bacon from anywhere but the United States, and the demand in the near future must be very large."

THE APIARY.

For the Maryland Farmer,

Taking Off and Caring for Comb Honey

It has been our custom to take off our honey in the after part of the day, between the hours of 2 and 6, by sundown the bees will all be back to the hives.

After having lighted your smoker blow a little smoke in the front of the hive to subdue the bees, then gently raise the box or boxes to be taken off and as you raise the box blow a little smoke under it, this will cause the bees in the hive to stay down and those in the box to stay up, have other boxes ready to put in place of those taken off. If boxes are small five or more can be placed on a board and carried away at once. These boxes must be placed in a very dark room, or cellar, with an opening large enough to let the bees that are in to get out and that will not let those get back that are out. If the right amount of light is admitted the bees will soon leave and none will get back to the boxes. On the other hand, if too much light is admitted the bees will return and in a very short time will disfigure the honey and carry it away. Seal up at once in the following manner: First, scrape off all wax and propolis, then cut strips of stiff writing paper one-half inch larger all around than the hole in the box, for paste take the white of an egg and enough of flour to make it about as thick as paint, beat until very light, apply to one side of the strips of paper and stretch tight over the holes and smoothen down with the thumb until dry.

Do not on any account store honey in a cellar, the dampness causes it to sweat and then the cappings will break and you have a lot of ruined honey. Our honey room is on the second story of our house and will hold two tons. It is six by ten feet and nine feet high, with two doors, one on each side; one opening from the hall, the other opening into a room over a porch. This room has one window. Here we put our honey first to let it harden, keeping this room light, after exposing to the light about two weeks, we place it in the honey room. Never on any account place more than two boxes on top of one another, but place shelves above one another on the order of a library. If little red ants bother honey, place the honey on a bench and put each leg or foot in a pan of water, and my word for it, if you keep water in the pans, no ants will bother the honey. Our honey room is as dark as anything can be made to be. We have honey now two years old as good and nice as it was when it was taken off.

J. LUTHER BOWERS.

Berryville, Va.

Fall Meeting of the Maryland Jockey Club.

The Fall Meeting of the Maryland Jockey Club will take place on the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th of October. The following is the programme.

First Day.—First race, Central Stakes, two year-olds, one mile, $600 added money; second race—Dixie Stakes, three-year-olds, two miles, $1,500 added money; third race—Oriole Handicap, all ages, one mile and an eighth, $500 added money; fourth race, two mile heats, all ages, $700; fifth race, steeplechase, $500 added money. Total, first day, $3,800.

Second Day.—First race; mile dash, Non-winners' purse, $400. Second race, Pimlico Stakes, all at two miles and an eighth, $800 added money. Third race, purse $500. Fourth race, mile heats, 3-year-olds, $500. Total, second day, $2,700.

Third Day.—First race, purse $500. Second race, Vestal Stakes, three-year-old fillies, one mile and a half, $800 added money. Third race, one mile, two-year-olds, $450. Fourth race, purse $500. Fifth race, grand steeplechase, $650. Total, third day, 2,600.

Fourth Day.—First race, Eclectic Stakes, two-year-olds, one mile, $1,200 added money. Second race, Breckenridge Stakes, three-year-olds, two miles, $1,000 added money. Third race, purse $500. Fourth race, purse $500. Fifth race, Bowie Stakes, four-mile heats, $2,200. Total, fourth day, $5,400. Grand Total, $14,500.

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DEVOTED TO

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EZRA WHITMAN, Editor,

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EZRA WHITMAN.

☞COL. D. S. CURTIS, of Washington, D. C., is authorized to act as Correspondent and Agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the MARYLAND FARMER, in the District of Columbia Maryland and Virginia.

☞Our friends can do us a good turn by mentioning the MARYLAND FARMER to their neighbors, and suggesting to them to subscribe for it.

To Our Readers.—Our senior editor spent his August vacation in an extended trip north, as far as Portland and Augusta, Maine, and rested some days at "Old Orchard," that delightful ocean resort on the southern coast of Maine, while others connected with the Journal likewise had a short holiday, are reasons why we have to crave the indulgence of our readers for the tardy appearance this month of the Maryland Farmer.

Next month will be the great month for the Fairs, and we shall embrace the opportunity to issue a mammoth number, including a full list of all State, County and District Fairs; give a number of useful tables and other statistical facts, besides a variety of very useful and valuable matter, so as to make our October number so important that *copies will be preserved for future reference.*

We shall circulate hundreds of copies, FREE, at the different Fairs and through the mail, therefore it will be a favorable opportunity for *Advertisers* to set forth their claims to great numbers of people. Every dealer in machinery and farming utensils, manufacturers of fertilizers, stock breeders, nurserymen, poultry fanciers, etc. should not miss such a chance to put themselves and their articles prominently before the public.

A Distinguished Visitor Expected. A private letter from Sir J. B. Lawes, of England, has been shown to us, from which we learn that the eminent agricultural chemist, Dr. Gilbert, so long connected with the Rothamsted researches of scientific facts in agricultural pursuits, expected to sail on the 12th of August, for this country, and will read a paper on "Sources of Nitrogen," before the American association which meets in Montreal. The eminent position held by Dr. Gilbert, and the thorough knowledge of the subject on which he proposes to speak, demands the attention of our readers and we will try to obtain an early copy of his published lecture, so our people can see what the Doctor says upon this important question, which is receiving so much attention from our farmers. If we can raise 25 bushels of wheat per acre, without purchased nitrogen, as Sir J. B. Lawes lately says we can, it will be the saving of millions, expended by our farmers in ammoniated fertilizers. Dr. A. P. Sharp, and others who hold to his theory, seem to now have the uppermost in the fight, and if their theory be correct, then will millions be saved annually by the farmers who have been habitually buying "coals to carry to New-Castle."

Thanks.—We acknowledge with thanks to D. H. Wheeler, Esq., Secretary to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, a complimentary ticket to their 16th Annual Fair, to be held at Omaha, September 11 to 16. It would give us great pleasure to attend and witness the wonderful strides of western progress.

Dr. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture, was elected on 23rd, ult., president of the American Forestry Congress, then assembled at Montreal.

Genl. Meems' annual sheep sale, at his Mount Airy farm, near Mount Jackson, Va. took place on August 23rd. There was as usual a large attendance, but the rain interfered with the sale and the bidding was not spirited. Prices ranged from $10 to $36.

THE DAIRY.

Abortion in Cattle.

The causes which produce "sporadic abortion" are very nnmerous; they may be directly or indirectly, and may be ranged as *external* or *internal*. Our best authors are of the opinion that, of external causes, atmospherical influences play an active part. Cold, when abruptly applied to the skin, will produce it; hence, the sudden changes of the weather are often marked by miscarriages. A cold rain storm is sometimes attended by great losses in this respect. Imprudent feeding, especially in regard to quality of the provender, is liable to produce serious results. Damaged hay or food, that from any cause may be indigestible, is well known to be dangerous. The indigestion, fermentation of the food, and liberation of gases, which is liable to result from imprudent feeding, by the undue pressure on the uterus, from the accumulation of gases, is liable to produce abortion. On the other hand, a plethoric condition, from too much stimulating food, is set down as a cause, not only of abortion, but also of many of the diseases which occur as a sequel to parturition. Frozen food or water, especially when taken in immoderate quantities, is very injurious. So is stagnant or putrid water. Some plants, such as the horse-tails, sedges, and the leaves of the beet root, diseased food, such as ergotised grasses, grains, etc., have long been known as frequent causes of the accident. Excessive exertion, travelling long journeys, especially after a period of comparative quietness,is a frequent cause. Contusions to the abdomen, from kicks, falls, etc., or squeezing through a narrow doorway, are liable to produce it. Any sudden shock, such as the performance of a surgical operation, excitement, fear, sudden surprise, are also causes. Odors from decomposed animal matter are set down as a cause. In regard to *internal causes*, there seems to be a special predisposition in some animals to abort, while others of a similar species are comparatively exempt, even when exposed to the most powerful causes; diseases which exert a decided influence on the system generally, such as the serious epizootic maladies, inflammation of the bowels, colic, hoven, and all diseases which cause unusual pain and restlessness.—*National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.*

How Fine Butter is Made.

The process of making butter is an important one, for the best butter may be spoiled and poor butter may be improved by the working. When the butter is churned it is taken from the churn and placed on a smooth maple, birch or chestnut table or other butter worker, or put into a bowl. If the churn will admit of it, the buttermilk may be drawn off, and clear, cold water poured into it. and the butter washed in that way in separate waters until it runs off quite clear, and the butter is quite free from milk. This is indispensable if the butter is expected to keep well. It is then salted at the rate of one ounce to the pound of butter. The butter is pressed out with the ladle, and never to be worked by the hands under any circumstances, and the salt is spread over it; it is then doubled and pressed out again and cut and gashed with the ladle, but never rubbed or plastered, but only squeezed and pressed, until the salt is pretty evenly mixed, it is then put away in a cool place for 24 hours or less, as may be convenient. It will then appear streaky and patchy, and is worked over in the same way as before until it becomes free from this streakiness and even in color, by the thorough mixture of the salt. This is done by squeezing it with the ladle, a small piece at a time, and pressing it out into a flat sheet, doubling it, and again squeezing it out, so as to get all the salt and moisture in it evenly through the mass. The color is then alike all over. No more working is then required. The first requires about 10 minutes for 20 or 25 pounds, the second about 15 minutes. It should then break with a course, uneven fracture. much like that of a piece of beeswax, and should appear when cut of a granular texture and quite free from greasiness, and fine drops of clear brine should follow the knife as it is cut. It is not well to try to get all the moisture out of the butter, as this improves the texture and flavor. If the cream has been well kept and the butter well made and churned, this should have a very sweet and fragrant scent, quite free from acidity or pungency. It is a pe-

culiar scent, and belongs only to the best butter, and when this odor is absent, the right flavor is wanting, because the scent and aroma, and the flavor as well, are all attributes of pure fresh butter. The butter should be packed as soon as it is worked the last time; no butter needs a third working; the package should be quite free from all disagreeable scent or impurity; white oak, spruce, or white ash are the best materials for the tubs or pails. White oak has an agreeable scent when fresh and stands first for butter packages. The package should first be scalded, then rinsed in cold water, then rubbed with a little salt, then rinsed with a little water, just enough to wash off the salt, but not to freshen the wood, and the butter is packed in the damp pail at once, being pressed down solid so that no air-holes are left. The pail is filled completely full, and may be covered with a piece of muslin dipped in brine, or with a piece of paraffine paper, and close up at once tightly and put away in a cool place or sold, which is the best plan.—*N. Y. Times.*

BUTTERMILK.—A recent medical writer asserts that for a hot weather drink, nothing equals buttermilk. "It is," said he, "both drink and food, and for the laborer is the best known. It supports the system and even in fever will cool the stomach admirably. It is also a most valuable domestic remedy. It will cure dysentery as well as and more quickly than any other remedy known. Dysentery is really a constipation, and is the opposite of diarrhoea. It is inflammation of the bowels, with congestion of the 'portal circulation,' the circulation of blood through the bowels and liver. It is a disease always prevalent in the summer and autumn. From considerable observation I feel warranted in saying that buttermilk, drank moderately, will cure every case of it, certainly, when taken in the early stages."

STANDPOINT, 4508, is perhaps the best bred Jersey bull on our continent. His sire and sire's dam, Polonius and Leda, brought, respectively, $4,500 and $3,000. His dam, Uala, 1158, gave twenty-seven pounds of milk per day, as a two year old. In color, Standpoint breeds after the Alpheas, gray with black points.

Skim Milk for Heifer Calves.

For the first three to six months, skim milk is one of the best of all foods for heifer calves. This is rich in casein and albumen, to grow the muscles and nervous tissues, and also in phosphate of lime for the bones, and in other mineral constituents of the animal body. It is better than whole milk for this purpose, for that contains too much fat to give a full developement to the muscles and bones. When the calf is very young the oil in new milk is very serviceable in keeping up a high degree of animal heat, and also to furnish a little needed fat to the lean body of the new-born calf. And for this reason it is well to add a little boiled flaxseed to skim milk, when this is given at a week old, as it may be if the cream is needed for butter. Stir into the warm milk a teaspoonful of flaxseed jelly for a young calf, and increase it very gradually as it grows older. The flaxseed will prevent constipation from the skim milk. After two months old, if milk is not plenty, that may be reduced and ground oats and bran substituted in its stead. New process linseed meal is also excellent for a heifer calf—say, one-fourth of a pound at two months old, increased to half a pound at four months old. A little early cut clover should be laid by for winter feeding of calves. Heifer calves should have free exercise in pasture to assist in developing a healthy and robust constitution.—*National Live Stock Journal, Chicago.*

MR. STRATTON'S famous Jersey cow, "Nelly," gave, from May 26th to June 2d, 344 lbs. of milk, from which was made 21 pounds of well worked unsalted butter.

State Fairs in 1882.

Am. Institute	New York	Sept 27-Dec. 2
Alabama	Montgomery	Nov. 13-18
Arkansas	Little Rock	Oct. 16-21
Calilfornia	Sacremento	Sept. 11-16
Canada, Central	Guelph	Oct. 3-4
Chicago Expos'n	Chicago, Ill	Sept. 6-Oct. 21
Chicago	Chicago	Sept. 18-23
Cincinnati Ind. Ex.	Cincinnati	Sept 6-Oct 7
Colorado	Denver	Sept 1-30
Connecticut	Meriden	Sept. 19-22
Delaware	Dover	Sept 25-30
Illinois	Peoria	Sept. 25-30
Illinois Fat Stock	Chicago	Nov. 16-23
Indiana	Indianapolis	Sept 25-30
Iowa	Des Moines	Sept. 1-8
Kansas	Topeka	Sept. 11-16
Kentucky	Lexington	Aug. 29 Sept. 2
Maine	Lewiston	Sept. 26-29
Mass. Horticultural	Boston	Sept 19-22
Michigan	Jackson	Sept. 18-22
Minnesota	Rochester	Aug. 29 Sept. 2
Minn. Agl. & Mc'h.	Minneapolis	Sept. 4-9
Montana	Helena	Sept. 25-30
Nebraska	Omaha	Sept. 11 16
New England	Worcester, Mass.	Sept 5-8
New Jersey	Waverly	Sept. 18-22
New York	Utica	Sept 25-29
North Carolina	Raleigh	Oct. 16-21
Ohio	Columbus	Aug. 28 Sept. 1
Oregon	Salem	Sept. 18-23
Pennsylvania	Pittsburg	Sept 7-21
Rhode Island	Cranston	Sept. 12 15
St. Louis	St. Louis, Mo	Oct. 2-7
South Carolina	Columbia	Nov. 14-17
Texas	Austin	Oct. 17-21
Tri-State, Ohio	Toledo	Sept 11-16
Vermont	Burlington	Sept. 12-15
Virginia	Richmond	Oct 25-27
Western Michigan	Grand Rapids	Sept. 25-30
West Virginia	Wheeling	Sept. 11-16
W. Va Central	Clarksburg	Sept. 19 21
Wisconsin	Fon du Lac	Sept. 11-16

COUNTY FAIRS.

MARYLAND.

Baltimore	Timonium	Oct. 3-9
Cecil	Elkton	Oct. 3-6
Frederick	Frederick	Oct. 10-13
Harford	Bel Air	Oct. 10-13
Montgomery	Rockville	Oct. 18-20
Washington	Hagerstown	Oct. 17-20

DELAWARE.

Peninsula	Middleton	Sept. 19-21

VIRGINIA.

Frederick	Winchester	Oct. 11-14

WEST VIRGINIA.

Berkley	Martinsburg	Sept. 12-15
Piedmont	Culpeper	Oct. 18-20

PENNSYLVANIA.

Berk's County	Reading	Sept. 26-29

OUR LETTER BOX.

GETTYSBURG, PA., July 16.

Messrs. Editors:—I am in receipt of the July number of the MARYLAND FARMER and found it as usual very interesting.

This valley is not particularly fertile. The wheat crop this year has been exceptionally good, yielding about 20 bushels to the acre. Corn is very backward, but as we are having considerable rain now, farmers expect it to show well in the end.

This town is a slow, solid one, numbering about 3200 inhabitants—a decrease of 200 since the war. There is no industry of any kind carried on here, with the exception of a chair factory, to engage the attention of the young men, in consequence of which they all leave as they attain their majority, and for the most part follow the advice of Horace Greely—"Go West,"—such a course necessarily causing a dearth of the male sex. The gentler outnumbering them four to one, and are as a class pretty beyond the average.

Had it not been for the memorable and momentous conflict waged here—with its enormous consequences—the town would be heard of scarcely twenty miles away, and probably would not have a railroad entering it. 'Twas from the pressure of visitors—to see where a father, son, brother or husband fell, or where a sacred cause was so nearly defeated—that the road was built.

We have about half a dozen ordinary country hotels and more than its complement of icecream and confectionary saloons. Each denomination has a church and local minister. The Rev. Dr. Tortat, an Episcopal divine, is building a church to be composed entirely of stones donated by individuals, bearing the name of a hero of either army at the choice of the donor.

The "Gettysburg Springs Hotel" is built upon the ground on which the 1st and 11th corps fought the first day's battle and within a stone throw of the spot where fell the dashing and lamented Gen. Reynolds, that the North be not invaded, that the Union be preserved and a government for the people by the people be perpetuated. A little to the south of us is the site of the second and third day's struggle—the battle of all time—when the back bone of the Confederacy was broken. During the past few days we have had here a great number of

the officers of both victors and vanquished going over the field and locating, for future historians, the positions of corps, divisions, brigades, spots where fell distinguished men, where some particularly brave act was performed, or where some feat well nigh a miracle was enacted. I was much pleased to hear Union soldiers speak so glowingly of their late enemies, extolling their virtues, courage and manliness in the late unpleasantness; compliments true, deserved and heartfelt. Such language made me believe the Union forces braver than I had ever thought them.

The view from the cupola of this house is surpassingly grand and it is worth the trip just to behold the unequalled grandeur of our sunset, it continues for thirty minutes, and its beauty is enhanced by the eveness of the mountains. "Round Top," upon which Gen. Meade held his impregnable position and which was the key to the fight, affords a view far beyond anything imaginable. Pen-Mar is pronounced by every one as not to be compared at all either in point of the distance or grandeur or for historical interest to this "Round Top." There is a distinct view of a radius of about twenty-five miles from the observatory on the hill. T. J. O'C

Choice Winter Oats.

"I enclose you a sample of winter oats that made me this season 448½ bushels from 6½ of seed, and the army worm destroyed at least ¼, and some of my neighbors say ⅓. Would have made at least 50 to 1. but for them. They weighed 40 pounds to the struck bushel. The oats I send you should be sown in September and not over a bushel to the acre. Some of these winter oats, this last spring, made 28½ of very fine heavy oats." W. H. Jesse.

Virginia, August 1882.

[This shows that this variety is good for both winter and spring. The specimen sent to us showed a heavy, dark colored oat, and seemed to be a cross between Russian white and Scotch black oats. These oats can be had of the grower at $2.00 per bushel, in limited qualities, through Messrs. E. Whitman Sons & Co., of this city.

Why should not some of our Maryland farmers try a few bushels this month among the standing corn? One gentleman on the Eastern Shore made a splendid crop of winter oats, a year or so ago, by sowing early in autumn. We believe not only in trying experiments, but we do believe in early sowing of spring oats, and hence think that a good winter oat would do better in Maryland and farther South.]

POULTRY HOUSE.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Pure Bred Birds.

Many of the old fogies, and we are glad to know they are fast becoming a thing of the past, severely criticise and condemn the so-called "fancy" fowls, call them tender, liable to disease and disorders and they are unprofitable. In the hands of many persons, no doubt, pure bred fowls will prove so, yet the fault is not with the fowls, but with the careless and lazy owner, who expects the pure bred birds, which have been accustomed for years to the best of care, food and treatment, to do well under a slip-shod system of management, which will scarcely keep the common dunghills together, even though the latter have never known better treatment for many generations back.

Those who do not expect to give the best of care to their fowls, should never try breeding pure bred fowls for profit, for disappointment will inevitably result and the discomfiture and loss will be proportionate to the slack management. Those who are either accustomed to high bred stock, or are accustomed to feeding liberally and caring well for it, are sure to be pleased with good specimens of pure bred fowls, the dissatisfaction being only amongst those who expect unreasonable profits. In nearly every case of complaint of pure bred stock, no matter whether it be cattle, sheep, swine or poultry, the trouble is not with the stock at all, nor with the breeder, but the purchaser alone is at fault, and is too dumb or headstrong to admit it. There may be cases, and no doubt are, where breeders send out inferior stock and thus take advantage of the confidences of their customers, but this does not occur as often

as some suppose, for the simple fact that breeders have a name, a reputation to maintain, and there are few who would be suicidal enough to sacrifice a good name for the sake of the small profits on one or two sales.

Those who believe in high feeding and the best of care, and these are the ones who make breeding pay roundly, are sure to find both satisfaction and profit in breeding pure bred stock, especially so, as their more sensitive organizations make them respond more quickly and generously to good food, high feeding and careful management than do the common stock which has for so many generations been accustomed to neglect, and forced to use their wits and powers to hunt up most, if not all of their own living, as best they can.

E., JR.

CAPONS.

Some of our readers may not understand the exact meaning of this word. A capon is an altered male fowl, and bears the same relation to other male fowls, that an ox does to a bull, a wether to a ram, etc. They may be produced from any breed of fowls, and will bring, in market, from 50 to 100 per cent. more than ordinary fowls, besides growing much larger and heavier than the common ones. Our poultry breeders should practice caponizing, as it can be done with very little difficulty and the necessary instruments cost but very little. There need be scarcely any danger attending the operation if ordinary care is used. When the chicken is about three months old is the best time for performing the operation, though with care it can be done when they reach the age of ten or twelve months. The process can be more readily learned by seeing it done, but where that is not possible, by following the directions given below one can generally be successful;

First, a table with screw rings or hooks placed so that the bird can be fastened to it by means of broad tapes and securely held during the operation. Place the bird upon the table and fasten it down upon its left side by putting a tape around its neck and one around each of its feet. Throw the wings back and fasten them there by the same means. Pluck some of the feathers directly under the wing and make an opening in the skin with a penknife or a pair of sharp pointed scissors. Draw the skin to one side and make an opening with the knife or scissors about an inch and a half long between the last two ribs, taking great care not to wound the intestines. The ribs are held open by means of spring hooks made expressly for the purpose. The inside will now be exposed. Move the intestines out of the way with the handle of a teaspoon, and the glands to be removed will be seen attached to the back. Tear the tissue that covers them and grasp the gland with a pair of concave forceps (a part of the set of instruments), holding the cord that connects them with a pair of tweezers; twist the gland off with the forceps, then serve the other in the same way. Take care not to injure the blood vessel attached to the organ, as this is the only dangerous point in the operation, its rupture generally proving fatal. Remove the hooks, and the skin will slip forward and close the opening. No stitching is necessary. Draw some of the feathers together over the wound and plaster them down with the blood, which will dry, and the wound will begin to heal at once. Give the bird all the water it will drink, and feed on a little bread and milk for a few days after the operation. For two days before no food nor water should be given to the fowl; this will make the operation easier and render success more certain.

A novice should commence on a dead fowl, so as to learn the position of the parts. With a little practice the operation can be performed in less than one minute, and by following the above instructions no assistance is needed.

Capons, to bring them to their full size, should be let run until the second year. They will be found very useful in fostering young chicks, taking very kindly to this pursuit. Of the Brahma species they have been known to attain a weight of eighteen pounds, and will bring a good price in the holiday season, as their flesh is very white, tender and juicy.—*Utah Farmer.*

Imported Angus Polled Cattle.

Very recently we visited the elegant country home of Mr. W. H. Whitridge, situated on a commanding eminence near Rogers station on the Green Spring branch of the Northern Central Railroad, which connects that great road with the Western Maryland Railroad. After passing those immense industrial hives of useful manufactures in Woodberry and its sister villages, the road goes along on one side of the beautiful and fertile valley of Green Spring, just at the foot of the high grounds, that serve as a wall similar to that in the distance on the other side, with the valley between, watered by a fair stream flowing through its center. From the front door of Mr. W.'s house the lovely pastoral scene mingled with the romance of lofty hills on either side, lies before the eye as a pretty panoramic picture unfolded.

The fine estate of Mr. Alexander Brown with his immense barn and superb fields of corn and pasture, is a prominent feature in this lovely landscape.

The object of our visit and the crown of our satisfaction was the six heifers and one bull of pure Scottish Angus Polled cattle, just imported by Mr. Whitridge, through the advantageous medium of his friend, the Hon. Campbell Macpherson Campbell, the brother of Sir George Macpherson Grant, of Ballindallock. Sir George is the most famous breeder of the Angus breed of cattle this day in Scotland. This choice nucleus for a herd of black, Polled Angus cattle consists as follows:

"Sir Eustace," 19 months old, (number will appear in vol. vii of the A. H. B.) bred by Sir. G. M. Grant, and is an "Erica" bull, in fact, and descended from prize stock on both sides. The "Erica" branch of the Angus is the most celebrated of this great beef breed in Scotland. "Sir Eustace" bids fair to develope into a remarkably short legged, flesh bull, and possesses all the fine points of a great beef animal.

1. "Mona of Cairdseat," 4608, by bull "Etonian," 1658. She is a beauty, and although only 2 years old, is as fully developed in form as one of mature years. Winner of a first prize at the Invernrie show this year.

2. "Clarissa," 4534, a showy beast who took two first prizes before she left her native land. She is by "Sir Viscount," 736, the best bull of his day.

3. "Seile," 4652, a remarkably well built heifer.

4. "Merrythought," 4670, bids fair to be very large and a good milker. Her escutcheon is fine.

5. "Pride 4th of Greystone," 4745; she took this year the third prize in a strong class of 2 years old at the Royal Northern Show at Aberdeen. She is our favorite of them all, but where all were so like peas in a pod, it was hard to say which was best.

"Barbara of Anchorachan," 4754. This heifer is a picture of beef producers. Served April 11, 1882, by Octavius Eric, 1797. She gained 1st prize as a two-year old heifer, at the Alford show, against *all breeds* (grass fed,) also 2nd prize (as one of a pair,) at the Royal Northern show, at Aberdeen, in 1882.

It will be seen by those who are versed in Angus Polled Cattle history, that Mr. Whitridge has united in his six heifers and one bull, the blood of the highest aristocratic representatives of the two great rival *first families* of Angus stock in the world. that of the Ericas and the Prides. Both have their admirers, but all admit that the two rank as premier tribes of polled cattle. The union of the blood of the two families must lead to great results in a new land and a happier clime than the bleak hills of grand old Scotland.

We wish Mr. Whitridge every success in this venture of introducing a hardy, fair milking and unequalled beef-producing race of cattle into our State. We trust that he is laying a foundation for fame as a

breeder and a benefactor to the farming community, like that which the renowned George Patterson, of Carroll county did in 1817, when he started with a bull and four heifers from Lord Leicester, of the Devon breed, and thus became the founder and disseminator of that most valuable stock throughout the length and breadth of the Union. We would like to give our readers an outline history of the true Scotch Angus cattle, but we must defer it until next month, on account of this article taking up already so much space.

Of these beautiful cattle of Mr. Whitridge we sum up by saying that the whole number—seven—are two years old, and well grown. The heifers are all believed to be in calf by the most popular bulls of that breed to be found in Scotland. They are all well and in fair, healthy condition. They are jet black, with thick, short hair, so close that the skin cannot be seen and and evidently would turn off water like a sealskin; they handle well, having a loose, mellow skin; compact in frame, small bones, low set, long bodies, handsome, broad faces, and being hornless, look like overgrown bears. Their chests are deep, with fine quarters and broad, straight backs and grand loins. They possess every evidence of being fair milkers and magnificent beef cattle. In the latter capacity their qualities can hardly be over estimated. The Scotch polled cattle have always brought, as beef, more pennies per pound, in the Smithfield market than any other breed.

This is saying a great deal, but we are sure our opinion will be sustained by both farmers and butchers as soon as they have had a fair opportunity to see and to test the merits of this breed as a beef breed. We honestly congratulate the farmers of Maryland, upon the introduction of so hardy and thrifty a breed of cattle in their midst, and feel sure that the foresight and energy of Mr. Whitridge will soon place him among the great benefactors of our stock breeders, who have already made Maryland famous for her superior herds of Short-horns, Devons, Herefords, and made her *the home* of that great butter breed—the Jerseys—it being just now, her boast that she owns more great butter producers than are to be found within the limits of any State in the Union, and perhaps has this day some half dozen cows that can produce more first class butter than any six cows that can be produced in the United States or in the world.

The Grangers Tri-State Pic nic.

WILLIAMS' GROVE, NEAR MECHANICSBURG, PA.

We had the pleasure of attending this great and successful fair or pic-nic. The Grove is admirably located, nature having seemingly adapted itself to the peculiar wants of such a place. The Grove consists of 30 acres nearly entirely covered by forest trees that afford dense shade, with a clear fine stream of water running around the grove forming it into an island. A train of cars every hour running into the grounds. The weather was favorable and the crowds immense, some 30,000 people were said to be present one day, and ranging from 10,000 to 25,000 each day. The great attraction was the grand display of machinery, rivalling in quantity, variety and excellence, any display of the sort at any one of the great State Fairs in this country. There were splendid fire works at night, and dancing by day and night, in all of which the younger portion of the great throng seemed to enter with much gleeful satisfaction. But the great feature of this pic-nic, which held this year its 9th anniversary with increased success, was the intellectual feast provided for those farmers who came not only to be amused but to be instructed. Each day there were essays read, speeches on agricultural subjects de-

livered, discussions on important questions, and a full interchange of opinions had. Many of the best speakers on agricultural subjects were present and engaged the attention of thoughtful minds by their instructive lessons or eloquent addresses. Where there were so many distinguished men engaged in these intellectual contests, it would be unjust to discriminate, unless we could name all, and for that we have not the room at present in our columns.

Friday was the Editorial day, when on invitation of the managers, the editors and other brothers of the quill were sumptuously dined, and where wit, humor and good fellowship made the time pass delightfully.

There is some reason in such annual festivals of farmers, when the mind is instructed while the body enjoys recreation at the same time. Why? we would ask, cannot the Grangers of Maryland have such an annual meeting that would refresh the physical powers while the intellectual would be improved. There are many appropriate sites suited for such pleasant meetings of our farmers along our great railroads coming into Baltimore and affording ready access from Philadelphia, Frederick, Washington city and Annapolis, and each road passing through a fertile country, teeming with rural delights and peopled by an intelligent yeomanry who are not only identified with, but who take deep interest in agricultural progress. What say you, energetic Grangers of Maryland?

We cannot conclude this hasty notice of our pleasant visit without acknowledging our thanks to Col. Thomas, chief of the active officers of the pic-nic, and editor of the *Farmers Friend* for the many courtesies he extended to us during our stay. W.

Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass.

The edition of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass about which so much has been written on account of the abandonment of its publication by a Boston firm in consequence of Mr. Anthony Comstock's allegations that it contained objectionable passages, has been issued by Rees Welsh & Co., Philadelphia. The book contains so much beautiful poetry and so full of useful thought that none but the most fastidious puritan of the would-be-done-over-religious can find fault with it. If there be a few lines that is, by the evil thinker, tortured into the construction of evil, and who sees the serpent hidden where no evil was intended, we say, to "the pure in thought, all is pure," and to him who is all the time hunting for wrong, in the language of the garter of England, "evil be to him, who evil thinks." No reader will be seduced from his natural love of virtue by reading "Leaves of Grass;" it may help on his way the naturally depraved, or may shock a *Comstock* if he is trading in morality as a stepping stone to preferment, but to the pure in heart, there is nothing in Whitman's writings half so shocking as is to be found in Shakespeare or even in the old Bible. Suppress Shakespeare! suppress "Leaves of Grass," Mr. Comstock? Better suppress yourself.

Extensive Enterprise in Baltimore County.—Messrs. S. N. Hyde & Son, of Harford county, who lately bought 400 acres of land in Long Green Valley of Baltimore county, have just finished the building of an extensive vegetable and fruit canning factory on the line of the Delta Railroad. The factory, which is two stories high and 160 by 32 feet in size, was finished on Saturday, and operations will begin on Aug. 21, giving employment to 200 persons. For employees who live on the place eight two-story cottages have been built, new equipment has been bought for the establishment and water brought ¾ of a mile is supplied to every part of the building.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Chats with the Ladies for September

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

SEPTEMBER.

"Sweet is the voice that calls
From babbling waterfalls,
In meadows where the downy seeds are flying;
And soft the breezes blow,
And eddying come and go
In faded gardens where the rose is dying.

"Among the stubbled corn
The blithe quail pipes at morn,
The merry partridge drums in hidden places,
And glittering insects gleam
Above the reedy stream,
Where busy spiders spin their filmy laces.

"At eve, cool shadows fall
Across the garden wall,
And on the clustered grapes to purple turning;
And pearly vapors lie
Along the eastern sky'
Where the broad harvest moon is redly burning.

"Ah! soon on field and hill
The wind shall whistle chill.
And patriarch swallows call their flocks together,
To fly from frost and snow
And seek for lands where blow
The fairer blossoms of a balmier weather.

"The crickets chirp all day,
"O fairest summer, stay!"
The squirrel eyes askance the chestnuts browning;
The wild fowl fly afar
Above the loamy bar,
And hasten southward ere the skies are frowning.

"Now comes a fragrant breeze
Through the dark cedar trees,
And round about my temples fondly lingers
In gentle playfulness,
Like to the soft caress
Bestowed in happier days by loving fingers.

"Yet though a sense of grief
Comes with the falling leaf,
And memory makes the summer doubly pleasant;
In all my autumn dreams
A future summer gleams,
Passing the fairest glories of the present."

During the few really warm days of August, I ran away from the heat and excitement of ever-busy and hard-working Baltimore, and recreated my tired self by a visit to a near and dear relative, living at the State capital Annapolis, the old historic town of Maryland, and the Athens of America in the long long ago history of colonial days, and the early days of these United Republics. There are some fine modern houses in the city, and a few venerable piles of brick and mortar still left as solid evidences of the grandeur of its ante-Revolutionary existence. There is much left about the old town to recall those glorious days past never to return, to make a Marylander's pulse quicken, yet sadden the heart. Enough left to remind one of the poetical figure of the vase, though broken, with the perfume yet lingering about it.

The prevailing fashion in ladies' dresses struck me forcibly—every woman, old or young, and every child both high and low, seemed to be in white. It looked cool and pretty, yet an economist could not but think of the extent of the wash bill that was thus incurred. The ladies of this ancient city are just now indulging in the beautiful art of silk embroidery, and the fashion of having much bric-a-brac in the parlors That of Mrs. Dr. W., who is an accomplished lady, descended from the old families of Maryland, whose veins were full of the best "blue blood," is almost a museum, crowded with rare old articles of virtu, each of historic interest, and many lovely specimens of beautiful embroidery, executed by herself and daughters, exhibiting both refined taste and talent, combined with skill in such delicate stitchery. Some of these articles such as chair covers, borders for curtains, &c., would grace the best exhibitions of excellence in that art, which in olden times employed the minds and fingers of Queens and royal maidens. How history, after many years, is repeating itself. I mention this that my young lady readers may profit by such examples.

Among other delicacies from the waters of the Chesapeake, that graced the well ordered table of my relative, was the crab, dressed in various ways, one of which was so delicious and new to me, I begged for the recipe that my lady friends should have the benefit of it. Thus it reads:—Pick nicely 12 crabs after they have been boiled, put in a stew-pan with plenty of good butter, salt and pepper to taste, one gill of rich milk, and when thoroughly hot, almost boiling, add 4 eggs, well beaten as if for an omelet, pour in the pan on crabs, stir and mix all together quickly and almost instantly serve in a hot dish. Ladies pardon this gossipy letter, for really it is too warm and sultry to either think seriously or write soberly.

Meeting with many of my old friends, recollections of boyhood and early manhood days naturally sprung up, and "we fought our battles o'er again," making my time pass most pleasantly, yet causing a sigh of regret when my vacation ended-

For the Maryland Farmer:

Crops—Kitchen Garden—Farming, &c.

The wheat crop of this section which is now in stack, is better than it has been for years. Oat crop, light, and corn, unless there is a very favorable fall, will not make over a two-third yield.

We have a moderate crop of fruit. Potatoes—early potatoes are yielding well and late potatoes look promising.

I have read Cousin Mehitabel's papers on housekeeping with much pleasure, she treats the subject well. Maryland housekeeping and Maryland cooking, I have in my travels in many States, heard spoken of as a model—and Maryland kitchens as the most untidy in the Union!

I certainly endorse Cousin Mehitabel's talk on the kitchen garden. Each year I try to surpass myself in my vegetable garden, and give much thought to the planting and cultivation of every variety of vegetables. I have my garden so arranged that it can, in a great measure be cultivated by horse power, almost everything being planted in long straight rows, sufficiently far apart to admit of plowing, like corn. Plaster is good for young plants.

Honest Kent Farmer, I have not forgotten you and think about your clover hay, yellow corn—and golden butter!

I have been the first to sow blue grass seed in this section. Ten years ago I had a small quantity of seed scattered on newly sown wheat, it was land that had been cleared of fine timber, put into corn and followed by oats, and then seeded to wheat. The blue grass took firm hold and spreading rapidly has now run out everything else. The past Spring I have had sown, mixed clover timothy and blue grass on oats. In March, I expect first to get the benefit of the clover, next the timothy, and then have a blue grass pasture for an unlimited time. After the burning drouth of last summer my blue grass pasture that came on and flourished during the autumn and early winter, improved my flock of sheep and helped me in the wintering of my cattle Some farmers object to blue grass, they say it makes it troublesome to raise corn where blue grass grows, but I think I shall keep my grass and raise corn elsewhere. Land is plenty and cheap. I am thinking fifty acres of blue grass will make enough money to buy a small farm in a few years. I may be mistaken in all that I anticipate from blue grass, for I am only experimenting with it. LADY FARMER.

Fairfax Co., Va., July 18, 1882.

Journalistic.

THE PLANTERS JOURNAL—Vicksburg, Miss., for August, is an unusually fine number of this standard publication on Southern agriculture and industrial enterprises. We find it worthy of praise and patronage, and commend it to the attention of those who are interested in Southern interests in house and field.

THE BREEDERS GAZETTE.—This splendid weekly paper for stock breeders continues to improve as it grows older The number now before us, that of August 3d, contains thirty-two pages, and is profusely illustrated with original engravings. On the first page is a beautiful picture of a Guernsey cow and calf. This is followed by a full-page engraving, showing a group of Jersey cattle, artistically arranged, and forming a most attractive picture. Then we have an engraving of the celebrated Polled Angus cow, Old Grannie, at thirty-five years old, perhaps the most celebrated cow that ever lived—the mother of twenty-nine calves. Then there is a likeness of her breeder and owner, Hugh Watson, of Scotland, with a sketch of the famous old cow. Among other valuable articles is a description of the Scotch polled breeds of cattle. Every department of livestock is represented. The price is $3.00 a year. Published by J. H. Sanders & Co., Chicago. This is a low price for so fine a weekly of from 24 to 32 pages, each number.

Publications Received.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—Is the title of a new cookery book, prepared by Mrs. R. C. Holiday, of Easton, Maryland, just published by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore, Md. This is a valuable, practical and reliable assistant to every housekeeper, and especially so to the young and inexperienced. This accomplished authoress has availed herself of the assistance of her sister housekeepers of celebrity in Maryland and old Virginia, and thus has succeded in arranging a desirable amount of information as to the preparation of all those sorts of delightful dishes, &c. for which the Old Dominion and Maryland have so long been celebrated as the substantial evidence of Southern profuse hospitality. It should be in the possession of every woman who prides herself upon her cookery or wishes to be well-informed upon this all-important subject.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Board of Regents of Smithsonian Institute for the year 1880. A well printed volume of nearly 800 pages of valuable scientific information, and evincing the importance of such an Institution at the seat of government.

From Messrs. Landreth and Sons, their very valuable and instructive pamphlet on the "*Value and Culture of Roots for Stock Feeding.*" Philadelphia. Mailed free to all who apply.

MEMORANDA of Results of Experiments on the farm and in the laboratory of Sir J. B. Lawes, at Rothamsted, Herts, England. This is a pamphlet containing very interesting results

rom field experiments with different crops and also analytical statistics.

Houghton Farm, experiments with Indian corn, in 1880-81.

DR. W. C. VAN BIBBER'S Essay upon the "Drinking Waters in Maryland," is an able treatise upon the subject, which should be read and the suggestions put in practice by every inhabitant of those sections of the State where malarial complaints are supposed to originate or be caused by impure surface water. There are many such localities, and if more attention were paid to investigating the causes and correcting the same. they could be made as healthful as any spots on the globe, and the money value of the farms would be thereafter greatly enhanced.

GENERAL HERD BOOK of the Island of Guernsey, is interesting at this time, when importations are on the increase in this country, of this large breed of the Channel Isle cattle.

ELEMETNS OF FORESTRY —Robert Clarke & Co., publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio is a neatly gotten up book, with appropriate illustrations. It is a carefully prepared work, designed to afford information concerning the planting and care of forest trees for ornament or profit, with suggestions upon the creation and care of woodlands, by F. B. Hough, Ph. D., Chief of Forestry Division, U. S Department of Agriculture. This book we should think was indispensable to every lover of our noble forest trees, and especially useful to those who are actively engaged in general tree planting, with a view of filling up our waste places and supplying the vacuum caused by the continual cutting down our great woodlands to supply the great demand for timber, wood and lumber of all sorts. It is a work that can be read with profit by every intelligent man who feels an interest in tree-culture, whether for ornament or future public good.

Catalogues Received.

E. P. Roe's Catalogue of Small Fruits and Grape Vines, for fall of 1882.....

Thorburn & Co., 15 John Street, New York, Catalogue of Bulbs.

From W. W. Churchman and George Jackson, Ingallston, Marion county, Ind. A neatly printed and well illustrated catalogue of their stock of Jersey Cattle, Oxford Down Sheep, Berkshire Swine and fancy poultry, bred from imported stock on their Beech Grove Farm.

Ellwanger & Barry's Autumn Catalogue for 1882, of Small Fruits, well illustrated and full of useful information, embracing all the best old, and promising new sorts of berries This one is in keeping with all preceding issues from that trustworthy, old and popular nursery at Rochester, N. Y.

From the same, their No. 6 Catalogue of Select Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Grapes, Vines, &c. What is said above applies to this also.

D. Z. Evans, Jr., Germantown, Pa. Special Circular on Collie Dogs, and fine stock of all breeds, poultry, &c.

Carpenter and Gage, Bower, Nebraska, Russian Fruit Trees, Silk-worm Eggs, &c

Robert W Scott, Frankfort, Ky. Description of and Essays, etc about his improved Kentucky sheep and other high-bred stock for sale.

REMEDY FOR THE CABBAGE WORM.—Salt is strongly recommended by some as a destroyer of the cabbage worm and not injurious to the cabbage. Sprinkle a teaspoonful of salt on each plant, early in the morning, for two or three mornings. The dew will cause the salt to adhere to the leaves, dissolve and permeate throughout the fibres of the whole plant.

Splendid White Wheat for Seed.

Mr. R. T. Pearce, of Lancaster county, Va., brought to us a sample of what he calls "*The Pearce Wheat.*" Mr. P. is an old and practical farmer of Virginia, whose farm adjoins the Landreth's Virginia Seed Farm. Mr. P. has been eight years in originating and perfecting this superb wheat. He says that it is a hardy and prolific wheat, and as nearly *rust proof* as any wheat can be. Considers it an admirable variety for Southern cultivation. The straw stands straight and strong, and never falls as most wheats do under the same circumstances. It stools immensely, and the heads are long and well filled with heavy. grains. It has produced 40 bushels per acre on clover fallow, and the past year his crop was an average of 31 bushels after a crop of corn of last year. Orders for this wheat can be left at the office of the MARYLAND FARMER, price $2.00 per bushel.

A DELIGHTFUL NOVELTY.—Ladies prefer Floreston cologne because they find this lasting combination of exquisite perfumes a delightful novelty.

HORTICULTURAL

Pear Slugs in Entomology and Horticulture.

July 7th, 1882.

Eds. Md. Far:—I have just written for you the history of the *Selandria Cerasi*, or pear slug, sometimes called the *Blennocampa*, which means a slimy caterpillar. They are now very troublesome with us on pear, quince and cherry trees in this place, some of which are nearly defoliated. They are sometimes found on the plum and mountan ash. Enclosed is a sample of leaves eaten by them.

This slug is the larvæ of a saw fly, closely resembling the common house fly, but a little smaller and thicker in proportien to the length. The body is a glossy black, terminating in a point a little sharper than the house fly. The wings are transparent reflecting rainbow hues. The legs are a shade lighter than the body. I find them easily caught on the leaves, where they are depositing where they are depositing their eggs, generally on the under side. The female is about one-fifth of an inch long and the male a little smaller.

They begin depositing their eggs late in May or early in June, their season lasting about three weeks. The eggs begin to hatch in two weeks and continue on into July, according to the time the flies have appeared. The slug is white at first, but soon covered with an olive colored slime, that glistens in the sun light. They have a snail-like appearance. They have ten pair of short legs. The body is the largest near the head, which they generally conceal under them. They only eat the pulp on the upper side of the leaf, leaving the veins and skin. One or two eat the leaf in patches, but the larger numbers clean them off so as to suggest the work of fire on the tree.

This premature loss of foliage may so injure the tree in the heat of summer as to cut off the fruit prospects of the coming year. The slug grows for 26 days, attaining about half an inch in length; and during this time they cast their skins five times, eating them every time till the last. The cast off skin of the last change may be seen on the leaf, when they no longer retain their slimy appearance and olive color but have a clean, yellow skin. In a few hours they leave the trees and having crept or fallen to the ground, they burrow in an earthy cocoon for sixteen days, when their transformation is complete, and they come to the surface in the fly form.

This second brood of flies multiply from the middle of July on into August, and their progeny go into the earth in September and October, where they remain till the following year.

The *Encyrtus* is their natural enemy. It is a minute ichneumon fly that deposits an egg in their egg, from which duly comes a worm to devour the saw-fly's egg, and become a chrysalis and then a fly. This little fly has been found very active in destroying the eggs of the last brood of the slug-fly. The slug is easily destroyed by any dust sprinkled on it, as ashes, quicklime, or dry earth, all of which absorb its moisture and end its work.

W. W. MEECH.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Growing Carrots.

Of all the methods of supplementing dry food of animals in winter, there is none better than by the use of root crops, and of these there is none better than the carrot.

The cultivation of root crops is, if properly conducted as it should be, of advantage to the farmer, in that it secures the clean culture of such portion of land as is devoted to the crops.

Although at the present time ensilage is being discussed largely in connection with its use as an important food for animals, it is by no means probable that it will entirely supplant all other kinds of food, and the day is probably somewhat distant when the average farmer will not cut and cure his hay for winter use, and will not be willing to avail himself of the appetizing power that comes from a feeding of root crops.

Of all the roots that are usually grown for feeding purposes, the carrot has always occupied an important place because of its nutritive and healthy laxative principles.

While it is a crop that can be easily cultivated, it is one that must be attended to in season, unless the desire is to very much increase the labor, and the farmer who is unwilling to give it proper attention had better not undertake its cultivation at all,

for he will be likely to become disgusted with the attempt.

It is desirable that the ground upon which carrots are to be grown, should have been under cultivation one season at least, so as to be free from sods, but at the same time it is desirable too that the previous cultivation should have been clean for the less seeds of weeds or grass, the better; there will always be enough in manure, and that are blown upon the soil, without allowing any to seed themselves thereon.

A rich, sandy loam is best for carrots and should be manured heavily, with thoroughly decomposed manure or compost, spread on and plowed in deeply and well incorporated with the soil.

She surface should be made smooth by the harrow, drag or rake, for the future cultivation depends very much on the condition of the soil when the seed is planted.

This should be done in the spring as soon as the ground can be easily worked, and is sufficiently warm to insure the quick germination of the seed. The planting may be done by means of any good planter, but our preference is for the "Planet, Jr.," seed drill. As soon as the plants are up sufficiently the wheel hoe should be passed between the rows to destroy any foreign growth that may have commenced, and to loosen the soil. The distance apart of the rows must be regulated by the culture to be adopted, if a horse is to be used the rows should be sufficient distance apart to admit of the free use of the horse hoe, but if entire hand culture is adopted, which we prefer, then the rows need not be farther apart than eight or ten inches, and if the soil is kept clean and frequently stirred the result will be an enormous crop. The great secret is in keeping the soil loose. When fully grown, in the fall or before danger from frost, they should be lifted up by being plowed out, and stand in a warm cellar for winter use, and there are none of the domestic animals but that will devour them with great relish.

WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.

Columbia, Conn.

KENT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR—The Annual Fair the Kent County Agricultural Association—the first of the season in this locality—will be held at Worten, Kent county, Md., and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 12th, 13th and 14th of September, 1882.

Contents of September Number.